

REMARKS:

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement by Office Action mailed September 26, 2006, Applicants elect with traverse Invention I, including claims 1-14. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement in light of the remarks herein.

The Examiner asserts that claims 1-14 (Invention I), claims 15-26 (Invention II), and claims 27-33 (Invention III) are patentably distinct from each other. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the composite wood component of Invention II may be made without the use of the mold press of Invention I. The Examiner also asserts that the composite door of Invention III may be made from a method other than the mold press of invention I. Further, the Examiner argues that the wood composite component of Invention II can be used to make products other than the door of Invention III, such as walls, floors or facades.

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions: 1) The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and 2) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required. *MPEP 803.01*.

All claims relate to a multi-ply core component formed from fused first and second wood composite boards or plies. The door of claims 27-33 includes such a wood composite core component. Applicants submit that similar features are present in all claims such that similar if not identical searches will be required for Inventions I, II and III. It will be inefficient to prosecute these claims separately. Applicants submit that examination of all claims 1-33 would not be a serious burden on the Examiner given the

claimed subject matter, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement.

In light of the above, Applicants traverse the restriction requirement, and respectfully request withdrawal of same. Notwithstanding the traverse, Applicants elect Invention I, including claims 1-14.

It is believed that no fee is due for this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. C. Schrot', written in a cursive style.

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